

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
June 28, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

INVOCATION: Father Theodore Poteres – Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: All members were present. President Hardaway asked for prayer and expressed sincere condolences to Maryann Gust & her family for the passing of her son.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:

The Town received a request for approval of a large gathering permit for the Grecian Festival. Chief Petruch mentioned that they will have security in place for the event. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no further discussion. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

President Hardaway read a letter from Merrillville School Corporation requesting a waiver of demolition permit fees and building permit fees for a bus facility upgrade project. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve with conditions that they will still be responsible to pay any related inspection fees. Mrs. Barron seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. Mr. Pettit suggested having a meeting arranged for an introduction to the new Superintendent of the Merrillville School system and the Town Council.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated June 28, 2016. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of June 14, 2016. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Spann had no report. Mr. Spires commented that the acceptance of road improvements in Prairie Point Apartments Phase 4 Subdivision has been postponed until the next meeting. Discussion followed. President Hardaway addressed an issue at the 5400/5500 block of Grant Street in which an area sunk and needs repair. Mr. Spires agreed to have this matter taken care of.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Uzelac had no report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mrs. Barron had no report.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Uzelac inquired as to the outcome of a meeting with Prompt Ambulance related to the contract. Mr. Spires provided an update regarding this matter.

Mrs. Uzelac read the detailed information regarding dates & times for use of consumer fireworks within the corporate limits of the Town of Merrillville. Discussion followed.

Chief Petruch shared information from a letter by Commander Kijurna in regards to a commendation request that provides recognition for outstanding police work performed by Officer William Hanner. The extraordinary investigative skills of this officer lead to the arrest of a homicide suspect. Officer Hanner is commended for a job well done and will receive a Level II commendation. Chief Petruch responded by thanking Officer Hanner for his outstanding police work investigating this case & solving it.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Ms. LaMarca referred to Jan Orlich for a report. Ms. Orlich prepared a list of rules & regulations for the Park Department and presented this information to the Town Council for review. Discussion followed. Ms. Orlich provided an update regarding the closing of Merrillville High School Senior Service program. A discussion took place related to how the Town can assist with the program.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Barron had no report. Mr. Lake provided Stormwater updates related to various drainage improvement projects. He stated that the Stormwater Infrastructure Atlas is completed and will be posted on the Town website. Mr. Lake said once hard copies become available they will be shared with all the utilities around us.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Ms. LaMarca reported that the Town Of Merrillville now has a Facebook page. She invited everyone to attend the 4th of July Parade. Discussion followed.

Mr. Pettit inquired as to the status of the Welcome to Merrillville signs. Mr. Spires said the signs are in however we are waiting to get the permits back from the State so that we can install the signs.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

UTILITY LIAISON:

Mrs. Barron had no report.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

President Hardaway stated the property located at 122 W. 55th Ave has been demolished.

Mr. Pettit requested that the Hearing Officer and Attorney Deppe attend the monthly Abandoned Blighted Properties Committee meetings. Discussion followed.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 16-18: An Ordinance to Establish Responsible Bidding Practices and Bid Submission Requirements for Public Works Projects. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Mrs. Barron made a motion to suspend the rule on the second reading and allow for it to take place at today's meeting. Mr. Pettit seconded the motion to suspend the rules. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 16-19: An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana to establish communications services project permit procedures for the Town of Merrillville to be certified as a Broadband Ready Community.

Mr. Bushemi provided detailed information related to the ordinance. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 16-15: An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana, creating the LOIT 2016 Special Distribution Fund (retroactive to May 20, 2016) to receive a one-time distribution of LOIT funds, to account for the restricted use of said funds and appropriating money from the fund for local road and street uses as specified by I.C. 6-3.6-9-17 (h). Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 16-17: Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Parks non-reverting budget for the year 2016 not included in the current budget. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 16-18: An Ordinance to Establish Responsible Bidding Practices and Bid Submission Requirements for Public Works Projects. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BZA ACTIONS:

Petitioner:	NOVAE Corporation
Owner:	The Francis P. Hoffman Revocable Trust
Request:	Special Exception Approval in a C-3 Highway Commercial Zoning District on 7.561 Acres.
Purpose:	For a proposed utility cargo and trailer dealership which offers trailers, trailer part sales, trailer rentals and service.
Location:	6900 E. Lincoln Highway
Zoning:	C-3, Highway Commercial
Case #:	Z26E6-0616
Conditions:	For this petitioner only at this location only for this use only

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve with the condition and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Police Commission meeting, July 1, 2016 at 8:00 a.m.

Town Hall Offices Closed (except for Emergency Services)
July 4, 2016 in observance of Independence Day.

Stormwater Management Board meeting, July 5, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.

Plan Commission workshop meeting, July 5, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

RDC meeting, July 12, 2016, at 6:00 p.m.

Town Council meeting, July 12, 2016, at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Barron and seconded by Mr. Pettit.

Richard Hardaway, President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer